

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for configuring modules in a data processing system, for controlling a technical plant, comprising:

utilizing decentralized and centralized modules that are networked with one another to provide a stored program control of plant functions, wherein the decentralized, plant-side modules each have a respective configuration module; and for one of the plant functions to be controlled, at least one of configuring and parameterizing the plant-side modules with the respective configuration modules.

2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the control of the technical plant comprises an open-loop control.

3. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the control of the technical plant comprises a closed-loop control.

4. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the networked modules exchange at least one of data and program parts via at least one of an internal and an external network, to support the configuration.

5. The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising supporting the configuration of the plant-side modules using a programming device equipped with a configuration module that is essentially identical to at least one of the configuration modules of the plant-side modules.

6. A component structured to configure a module in a data processing system, for controlling a technical plant, in which system decentralized and centralized modules are networked with one another to provide a stored program control of plant functions, wherein the decentralized, plant-side modules each have a respective configuration module, comprising:

hardware configuration software with which at least one of the plant-side modules corresponding to the component is at least configured or parameterized.

7. The component according to claim 6, wherein the component comprises a software component.

8. The component according to claim 6, wherein the component comprises a firmware component.

9. A circuit arrangement for configuring a module in a data processing system, for controlling a technical plant, in which system decentralized and centralized modules are networked with one another to provide a stored program control of plant functions, wherein the decentralized, plant-side modules each comprise a configuration module, and wherein the decentralized, plant-side modules each comprise a microprocessor and memory components for configuring the respective plant-side module.

10. The circuit arrangement as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising:
a standardized network connection for interconnecting the respective plant-side modules with one another; and

a further standardized network connection with a software component configured as a browser for connecting the respective plant-side modules to an Internet.